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10/5/98

# UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY POLLUTION REPORT

## I. HEADING

**Date:** October 5, 1998

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**Subject:** Vacant Lot Site

**POLREP#:** Polrep # 2

## II. BACKGROUND

**Site ID No.:** A527

**Delivery Order No.:** USACE - 0055

**Response Authority:** CERCLA (ERB)

**CERCLA Incident Category:** Non-Time-Critical Removal

**CERCLIS ID#:** ILR000054759

**NPL Status:** Non-NPL

**Action Memorandum Signed:** May 6, 1998

**Start Date:** August 4, 1998

**Demobilization Date:** NA

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



229887

## III. RESPONSE INFORMATION

- A. The Vacant Lot site is a 6.4-acre parcel of land located at the northeast corner of Commonwealth Avenue and 22nd Street in North Chicago, Lake County Illinois. The site is transected by Pettibone Creek, an intermittent water body that lies in a relatively steep-sided ravine, and originates at the northwest boundry of the site. The creek flows to the south on site, and then flows east to finally merge into Lake Michigan (1.5 miles from the site). Historical information indicates that the site has been utilized by nearby industries for waste disposal. The source,

quantity, and nature of the materials brought to the site is not well documented. However, reports of foundry sand and tailings deposition at the site is consistent with descriptions of materials observed on site. Numerous sampling events have been conducted at the site since 1984 by State and local officials. Elevated levels of heavy metals, chlorinated solvents, PAHs, pesticides, and PCBs were detected in on-site soil samples. In September of 1994, the U.S.EPA conducted a Site assessment at the request of Illinois EPA. Several soil and sediment samples were collected, including samples from the location of the previous underground fire incident. Generally, elevated levels of heavy metals (including arsenic, beryllium, and lead), TCE, and PCBs were detected at the site.

Based upon the Site characterization data and the results of the Streamlined Risk Evaluation and the Streamlined Ecological Risk Evaluation, removal action objectives were developed to provide a basis for the identification and evaluation of alternatives for a non-time-critical removal action. Removal action objectives were developed for those areas of the site which were determined to exceed a risk of 1 in 100,000, an HI of 1, or for those areas which have a high potential to release contaminants to the environment.

#### B. Action Taken

The following actions were accomplished during the period of September 1 to October 3, 1998

The week ending 9-6-98, the remaining stockpiled trees were chipped utilizing a tub grinder to handle the larger branches. Excavation and stockpiling of non-hazardous soil continued. Verification sampling on the west side of the site indicated grids 1,2, and 3 met the cleanup goals, and were backfilled with clean soil.

The week ending 9-13-98, excavation of non-hazardous soils continued with the stockpile at 3827 cu. yd. Continued to backfill on the west side as verification samples were received. Sampling to determine the extent of the PCB area continued. Shipping of non-hazardous soil was to have started this week, but was delayed due to safety and equipment issues with the trucking company. The west side of the site was downgraded from level "C" to level "D".

The week ending 9-20-98, excavation of non-hazardous soil continued with the stockpile at 4694 cu. yd. Began transportation of non-hazardous soils to BFI Landfill in Zion, IL. Approximately 1780 cu. yd. consisting of 89 truck loads were transported this week. Started the excavation of the TCLP lead soils, with approximately 1035 cu. yd. stockpiled on-site. RMT Inc. was on site this week to obtain soil samples to run a treatability study for their phosphate treatment process. On 9-15-98, solvent odors were noticed around the culvert pipe that comes from EMCO Chemical, samples were collected and EMCO personnel were notified to investigate the release. On 9-15-98, the Action Memo was amended to incorporate the excavation and disposal of contaminated sediments in Pettibone Creek.

The week ending 9-26-98, excavation and backfilling have been completed west of Pettibone creek, excavation of the TCLP lead soils continues on the east side of the creek. Disposal of non-hazardous soils continues with 3060 cu. yd. consisting of 153 truckloads transported to BFI Landfill. Totals to date as of this week are 4869 cubic yards of non-hazardous soil excavated, 2800 cubic yards of TCLP soil excavated, and 4840 cubic yards of non-hazardous soil transported for disposal. Quantity estimates for soil to be excavated

are being revised based on actual excavations to date and test pits in areas to be excavated. The potential increases in soil quantities and stabilization of potentially 30,000 cubic yards TCLP lead soil may increase costs by as much as 50%.

RMT Inc. was on-site to discuss the phosphate treatment and answer any questions, IT/OHM will continue to negotiate treatment costs. On 9-23-98, product was released to Pettibone Creek from the EMCO Chemical's outfall. EMCO hired Clean Harbors, which responded the following day to recover the released material, OHM assisted by placing sorbent boom downstream in Pettibone Creek. EMCO's investigation did reveal a leak in at least one of their tanks. Based on air monitoring results, work in the Hot Zone has been downgraded to a modified level D.

The week ending 10-3-98, an additional 1450 cubic yards of TCLP lead soil was excavated and stockpiled. Backfilling of clean areas continued, and the remaining non-hazardous soils were transported to BFI Landfill. An additional trucking firm contract was awarded and sampling in the creek banks was completed. All non-hazardous soils have been shipped off site totaling cubic yards/6442 tons utilizing 324 truckloads. Approximately 9200 cubic yards of TCLP lead soil is stockpiled and ready for stabilization.

#### **IV. NEXT STEPS**

Continue soil excavation, and disposal of stockpile.

Prepare for excavation of creek sediments.

Arrange disposal for concrete which is encountered during excavation work.

Begin excavation and stockpiling of PCB soils.

Initiate treatment of TCLP lead soils utilizing RMT phosphate process

Continue verification sampling and backfilling of clean areas

#### **V. ISSUES**

Funding increase may be necessary as increased excavation will be necessary to achieve the cleanup goal of 1400 ppm for lead. Excavation beyond the anticipated two foot limit will be required as contamination has been discovered significantly deeper throughout the site.

**VI. COST TO DATE as of 8/31/98**

Subject	Amount Budgeted	Amount Used	Amount Remaining
U.S. EPA	\$ NA	\$	\$
U.S. ACE	\$ NA	\$	\$
OHM	\$1,505,089.00	\$ 673,770.00	\$ 831,319.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,505,089.00</b>	<b>\$ 673,770.00</b>	<b>\$ 831,319.00</b>

**VII. WASTE DISPOSAL SUMMARY**

<u>Wastestream</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Manifest #</u>	<u>Disposal</u>
Non-haz soil	6442 tons		BFI Landfill Zion, IL
Hazardous soil			